

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AF-10 RSR-01 /127 W
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R 191531 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2788

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEHOASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 2402

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7275

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY IS LE

SUBJ: SYRIAN SITUATION

REF: BEIRUT 7260

1. COUNSELLOR OF YUGOSLAV EMBASSY HERE DISCUSSED SYRIAN SITUATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 19. HE ADMITTED THAT SARG BEHAVIOUR GIVES AMPLE GROUNDS FOR CONCERN, BASED ON INFO RECEIVED FROM YUGOSLAV EMBASSY DAMASCUS. WHEREAS EGYPTIAN BEHAVIOUR HAS BEEN REASONABLE THUS FAR AND FAIRLY PREDICTABLE, DESPITE SOME BELLICOSE STATEMENTS, SARG TENDS TO BE TOO ERRATIC.

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YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE THAT SARG IS TRULY AFRAID OF ATTACK BY ISRAEL. IN ADDITION TO MANY STATEMENTS WARNING OF SUCH ATTACK, WHICH SERVE PROPAGANDA PURPOSE AS WELL AS EXPRESSING REAL APPREHENSION, SYRIAN MILITARY HAS VIRTUALLY DOUBLED ITS DEFENSIVE STRENGTH BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND GOLAN AND EVEN TOWARD LEBANESE BORDER SINCE IDF COULD CONDUCT FLANKING ATTACK THROUGH LEBANON. YUGOSLAVS DO NOT RPT NOT SEE SARG AS DELIBERATELY INITIATING HOSTILITIES NOR DESIRING THEM BUT SARG IS SUFFICIENTLY ERRATIC, GIVEN ITS PRESENT INTERNAL POLITICAL TROUBLES AND HEIGHTENED TENSIONS IN AREA, THAT THE UNEXPECTED COULD HAPPEN.

2. CONCERNING SARG ATTITUDE TOWARD LEBANON, YUGOSLAV COUNSELLOR BELIEVES THERE ARE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL REASONS FOR SYRIAN ATTITUDE: (A) DESIRE OBTAIN POSITION OF DOMINANCE OVER ENTIRE FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT; (B) DESIRE INCREASE SYRIAN INFLUENCE IN LEBANON, INSIDE/ AND OUTSIDE GOL; (C) DESIRE SEE SYRIAN PORTS REPLACE BEIRUT AS MAIN ENTREPOT FOR TRANSIT TRADE BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN AND ARAB EAST; (D) PROVIDE SAFETY VALVE FOR SOME OF OPPOSITION PRESSURES AGAINST SARG FOR NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIVE TO NEEDS OF SYRIAN SUNNIS AND OF FEDAYEEN IN SYRIA.
HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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AMMAN
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